

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA, STRONGLY URGING FLORIDA GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT AND THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER'S TASK FORCE ON INCLUSION AND ACCOUNTABILITY, AND STRONGLY URGING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO MAINTAIN CURRENT ESOL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR READING TEACHERS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS ("ELLs") IN FLORIDA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, a Task Force was established by the Commissioner on Education to devise ways to fairly, fully, and accurately include students in Exceptional Student Education ("ESE") and English Language Learners ("ELLs") programs, collectively referred to as "Special Populations"; and

WHEREAS, only one recommendation for ELLs and only five of thirty-five recommendations overall were brought by the Commissioner to the State Board of Education for action at its May 10, 2012 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the current accountability system rules are not accurate or fair when applied to Special Populations, and threaten the continued success of Florida's public school system, as it can lead to increased student failure rates, increased student dropout rates, inaccurate teacher evaluations, disproportionately low School Report Card grades for districts with large populations of ELLs or students in Special Education programs, school closures, reduced property values, and disincentives for business relocation; and

WHEREAS, an accountability plan for Special Populations that will more accurately and fairly benchmark progress already exists, but the Task Force recommendations that constitute the action plan have not been implemented; and

WHEREAS, according to school district superintendents, the Florida Education Association, and professional education organizers, the Task Force recommendations are more just and would yield more accurate results than the means currently included in the state's rules for school accountability; and

WHEREAS, without Task Force recommendations as amendments to the current accountability policies, schools are not responsible for their English Language Learners' progress, and schools that have no contact with Special Education students would be held responsible for their academic progress; and

WHEREAS, failure to put the Task Force recommendations into practice would cause great harm to our most vulnerable students, their families, communities, and schools; and

WHEREAS, at a time when we must strive to be as competitive as possible in the quickly changing global economy, and are raising the bar for student performance expectations, we cannot afford to lower the bar of expectations and training for our highly qualified teachers; and

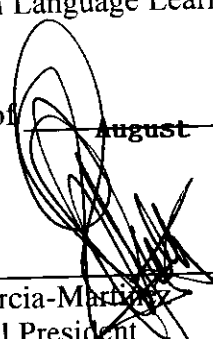
WHEREAS, maintaining the current ESOL training requirements for reading teachers of English Language Learners is in the best interests of the citizens and residents of Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. The foregoing facts and recitations contained in the preamble of this resolution are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.


Section 2. The Mayor and the City Council of the City of Hialeah, Florida strongly urge Florida Governor Rick Scott and the State Board of Education to adopt and implement the recommendations of the Commissioner's Task Force on Inclusion and Accountability, and strongly urge the Florida Department of Education to maintain current ESOL training requirements for reading teachers of English Language Learners in Florida's public schools.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of August, 2012.




Isis Garcia-Martinez
Council President

Attest:



David Concepcion, City Clerk

Approved on the 20 day of August, 2012.



Mayor Carlos Hernandez

Approved as to legal sufficiency and form:



William M. Grodnick, City Attorney

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Resolution was adopted by a 6-0 vote with Councilmembers, Caragol, Casals-Munoz, Cue-Fuente, Garcia-Martinez, Hernandez and Lozano voting "Yes", Councilmember Gonzalez absent.